

STRANGE PROCEEDINGS.**A Very Lively Election Day at Dona Ana.****Republicans Pitch a Ballot Box out of a Window and Scatter the Ballots on the Ground.**

There was an attempt made at Dona Ana, in Dona Ana county, on election day to render the vote of that precinct illegal. The Las Cruces Independent Democrat says that a mounted messenger created some excitement by galloping into town and telling an incoherent tale about the stealing or stuffing of a ballot box in Dona Ana. Deputy Sheriff Williams, armed with a Winchester, started for Dona Ana, and was joined on the road by a mysterious stranger who had been conspicuously in evidence on the street for a day or two. The stranger was dressed like a Mexican and spoke Spanish, but he proved to be an ex-ranger named St. Leon. According to his own story, he was here on detective business, but his actions indicated that he had been engaged for some purpose by the republicans. He slipped around by a back street and joined Williams, armed to the teeth, and three other armed men fell into line up the road. Judge Fall followed the armed posse to Dona Ana to prevent trouble.

When the party arrived there, it was found that the republicans had pitched the ballot box out of the window and refused to go on with the election. Judge Fall informed the election officers that they would have to keep the polls open and give every man a chance to vote, but the republicans crowded around the polling place and declared that they would not permit the election to be held. Judge Fall then called upon Deputy Williams to clear the place, and Williams promptly responded and drove the crowd back.

The republicans asserted that the democrats had stuffed the ballot box with illegal ballots while at dinner. Judge Fall informed them that they could keep the alleged illegal ballots separate and proceed with the election, making a note of the circumstances and certifying only to such votes as might be cast properly.

It was learned later however that there had been no stuffing of the box. It appears that while the election officers were dining, the unwatched box was removed by somebody from its proper place and deposited upon a table in an adjoining room used as the postoffice. After dinner Pablo Melendres, judge of the election and republican candidate for probate judge, illegally unlocked the box, emptied its contents out of the window, jumped out after them and deserted his post, declaring that no more voting

should be done. He declared that the box had been stuffed. One of the other election officers caught the ballots as they fell and returned them to the box, and somebody chased Don Pablo and brought him back. It was then found that there were just 84 ballots in the box, the number corresponding exactly with the number of votes recorded as having been cast. The 84 were democratic tickets, but each one bore the name of Pablo Melendres in his own handwriting. Don Pablo himself held the key to the box and whether or not it was tampered with are questions that nobody seems able to answer.

Of the 93 votes cast after the row over the box, the democrats had a majority of 19. These are certified to as legal, but the election officers have not certified to the legality of the 84 suspected ballots, and the republicans are trying to have the whole vote of the precinct thrown out. The contest promises to be interesting.

The board of county commissioners met last Monday as a canvassing board to canvass the returns of the late election in this county. There was little interest taken in the proceedings of the board except as to the result of the election for county commissioner from the third district, for which office the vote was very close. In the precincts outside of Black Hawk the vote between Clark and King was a tie and the election officers at Black Hawk did not take the precaution to copy the vote so it was a matter of some doubt as to the result until the Black Hawk ballot box was opened and the poll books taken out. Clark had six majority and these six votes decided the matter in his favor. Both parties were represented by attorneys before the board and a few technical points were brought up all of which were overruled by the board. Mr. Clark was given the certificate.

WATTERSON ON THE SITUATION.

The Editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal has the Following to Say in Reference to the Election Last Week.

"Never did a great party go to the people under such handicaps as were carried by the democrats into the campaign just ended. Hard times were bad enough, but they might have been parried. Faction fights among small claimants and rival place men were bad enough, but the parties have met and overcome such obstacles before now. But with the record of 'perfidy and dishonor' as Mr. Cleveland aptly described it, to face and defend in a hand to hand fight with the united republicans led by Harrison, McKinley and Reed, was disheartening for democrats to have to face; also the dull self-sufficiency and stolid indifference of the administration that made no sign, uttered no word and at least in the state of New York, seemed to desire the defeat of the regular democratic nominees. The battle for tariff reform will have to go down to the foot and take a new start. The battle over the money issue will soon be upon us. We shall see whether there is democracy enough left of the true blue stripe to make a great coat good against all weather or whether we must still wear the coat of many colors, covering not the homogeneous party inspired by faith and trust, but a mere bundle of factions thrown together by the upheaval of the times."

Hart Brothers have shipped three train loads of cattle which they have sold to Tower & Casey, the last shipment being made Sunday. The cowboys are now out gathering another bunch which will be shipped as soon as they can be brought in.—Liberal.

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